

Message Text

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13-12

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-03 ERDA-05 /103 W

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R 192236Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 492

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 3480

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, MARR, XP, NZ

SUBJECT: SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE (SPNWFZ)

REF: WELLINGTON 3355

1. DEPUTY FON SEC'Y SCOTT NOV. 19 PROVIDED AMBASSADOR
WITH GNZ'S WRITTEN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S NOV. 11
DEMARCHE REGARDING SPNWFZ (REFTEL). RESPONSE,
CLEARED BY FON SEC'Y CORNER PRIOR TO A TRIP ABROAD,
QUOTED BELOW.

2. "NEW ZEALAND HAD HOPED THAT THE STATEMENT MADE
BY AMBASSADOR TEMPLETON ON 31 OCTOBER WOULD GO A LONG
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WAY TOWARDS MEETING UNITED STATES DOUBTS ABOUT THE

NEW ZEALAND INITIATIVE CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC. IT IS NATURALLY DISAPPOINTED AT THE REACTION OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE 31 OCTOBER STATEMENT.

"IN THE NEW ZEALAND VIEW, THAT STATEMENT OFFERED A WELL-BALANCED EXPLANATION OF THE ORIGINS OF THIS REGIONAL INITIATIVE, IN THE LIGHT OF THE CURRENT UNITED NATIONS INTEREST IN NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONES. IT SOUGHT TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE CO-SPONSORS OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION REGARD IT AS AN ESSENTIALLY PROCEDURAL ONE, SETTING THE STAGE FOR CONSULTATIONS AMONG THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED ON THE ISSUES OF SUBSTANCE. IT ACKNOWLEDGED THE COMPLEXITY OF THOSE ISSUES, THE EXPLORATORY NATURE OF THE CONSULTATIONS ENVISAGED BY THE RESOLUTION AND THE FACT THAT PROGRESS CAN BE ACHIEVED ONLY THROUGH CONSENSUS AND AGREEMENT.

"ALTHOUGH THE STATEMENT WAS DELIBERATELY CAST IN BROAD AND GENERAL TERMS, IT SEEMED SENSIBLE AND PROPER THAT IT SHOULD REFER TO THE QUESTIONS RAISED BY OTHER DELEGATIONS IN NEW YORK AND BY SOME GOVERNMENTS IN CONSULTATIONS IN CAPITALS. ONE OF THESE CONCERNED THE EFFECT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ZONE ON THE TRADITIONAL FREEDOMS ACCORDED TO MARITIME NATIONS ON THE HIGH SEAS. NEW ZEALAND HAS NEVER MADE ANY SECRET OF THE FACT, EITHER IN ITS PUBLIC STATEMENTS OR IN ITS PRIVATE CONSULTATIONS WITH ITS FRIENDS, THAT IT LOOKED UPON THE EXTENSION OF THE ZONE TO THE HIGH SEAS AS A LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE THAT WAS WORTH PURSUING IN THE SAME WAY THAT GENERAL NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS WERE WORTH PURSUING. IT HAS, HOWEVER, ALWAYS ADDED THE KEY QUALIFICATION - AND THIS WAS STATED EXPLICITLY IN THE FIRST COMMITTEE - THAT ANY EXTENSION TO THE HIGH SEAS MUST BE DEPENDENT UPON THE CONCURRENCE OF ALL THE NUCLEAR POWERS. THERE IS NO QUESTION, THEREFORE, OF ATTEMPTING TO IMPOSE A RESTRICTION ON THE NUCLEAR POWERS, TO CONTRAVENE INTERNATIONAL LAW

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OR TO UPSET EXISTING SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.

"IT IS TRUE THAT AMBASSADOR TEMPLETON'S STATEMENT OMITTED ANY REFERENCE TO QUESTIONS OF TRANSIT THROUGH TERRITORIAL SEAS OR NATIONAL AIRSPACE. BUT THE STATEMENT WAS NOT INTENDED TO COVER ALL ISSUES IN DETAIL: IT WAS PRIMARILY AN INTRODUCTION TO A PRIMARILY PROCEDURAL RESOLUTION. NEW

ZEALAND'S OWN POSITION IS THAT ANY TREATY ESTABLISHING THE ZONE SHOULD NOT AFFECT THE RIGHT UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW OF ANY PARTICIPATING STATE TO GRANT OR DENY TRANSIT PRIVILEGES IN RESPECT OF ITS TERRITORIAL SEAS OR NATIONAL AIRSPACE.

"AS FAR AS THE QUESTION OF INCLUDING UNITED STATES TERRITORIES IN THE PROPOSED ZONE IS CONCERNED, THE FIRST COMMITTEE STATEMENT MADE IT CLEAR THAT PARTICIPATION IN THE ZONE WOULD BE A WHOLLY VOLUNTARY AND SOVEREIGN ACT BY ALL THE STATES CONCERNED. ONCE AGAIN THERE IS NO QUESTION OF TRYING TO COMPEL ANY COUNTRY TO DO ANYTHING AGAINST ITS WILL.

"NEW ZEALAND HAS CAREFULLY EXAMINED THE POSSIBILITY OF AMENDING THE DRAFT RESOLUTION IN THE WAY SUGGESTED BY AMBASSADOR MARTIN IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR TEMPLETON ON 3 NOVEMBER. NEW ZEALAND WOULD, HOWEVER, BE RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT SUCH A CHANGE FOR BOTH SUBSTANTIVE AND TACTICAL REASONS. THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM MEETING AT NUKU'ALOFA IN JULY COMMENDED THE IDEA OF ESTABLISHING A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE AND NEW ZEALAND, AS ONE OF THE THREE FORUM MEMBERS WHICH ARE ALSO UNITED NATIONS MEMBERS, HAS BEEN ANXIOUS TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE WISHES OF THE FORUM IN THE TERMS IN WHICH IT EXPRESSED THEM. FROM THE TACTICAL POINT OF VIEW, THERE IS A RISK THAT THE ACCEPTANCE OF AMENDMENTS WOULD OPEN THE DOOR TO THE SUBMISSION OF OTHER AMENDMENTS THAT WOULD GIVE THE RESOLUTION FEATURES COMPLETELY UNWANTED BY ITS PRESENT SPONSORS AND THEIR FRIENDS."

3. DURING ENSUING DISCUSSION OF THIS AND RELATED
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MATTERS, SCOTT TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN SITUATION WITH REGARD TO NPW VISITS TO NZ. HE SAID PM ROWLING IS CONTINUING TO RESERVE HIS POSITION AND WILL MAKE A DECISION ON THIS SUBJECT BY THE END OF 1975.
SELDEN

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